

CHARLESTON

FIRE DEPARTMENT



Duplex Fire Displaces Multiple Residents

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Charleston, SC (April 21, 2015): On 4/19/2015 at 11:27 PM units with the Charleston and North Charleston Fire Departments, Charleston Police and Charleston County EMS were dispatched for a reported residential structure fire on Marlow Street. Fire personnel arrived at 11:31 PM and report visible smoke venting from the two-story duplex structure.

Fire crews controlled the fire and searched the structure in less than 15 minutes of their arrival. Fire damage was contained primarily to one residential unit, with smoke and water damage affecting the second. All of the occupants escaped without injury. One firefighter was injured during the incident and was subsequently treated and released by a local medical facility. The American Red Cross was notified of the incident to provide assistance.

The Charleston Fire Department Fire Marshal Division responded to investigate the fire. The cause of the fire is still under investigation. The preliminary findings indicate the cause is likely related to an unintentional event involving an unattended candle. Investigators noted the duplex was not equipped with any working smoke alarms.

The Charleston Fire Department would like to take this opportunity to offer a few safety tips:

- 1) Never leave candles burning unattended.
- 2) Use candles on stable, flat surface that cannot come into contact with combustible items.
- 3) Always maintain working smoke alarms in your home – this will improve safety of occupants in a structure by alerting them to a possible fire.
- 4) Every level of a home should have a working smoke alarm. Smoke alarms should be installed inside and outside of each sleeping area.
- 5) Test smoke alarms monthly. Batteries should be changed on a yearly basis.
- 6) Report any unusual odors or smell of smoke by dialing 9-1-1. Emergency responders can then investigate the situation.

Please contact Community Educator Ryan Kunitzer at (843)958-6401 or by email at kunitzerr@charleston-sc.gov for additional tips on smoke alarms and fire safety.

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